

# Public Comments

## Hunt for Habitat Licenses

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**Robert Eddy**

**Rapid City SD**

**REDDY@RUSHMORE.COM**

**Comment:**

Please oppose the proposal to allow an elk on this super tag licence. These tags are difficult enough for hunter to get, and some never will receive one. I encourage the replacement with a turkey, small game, and waterfowl licences.

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**Dana Rogers**

**Hill City SD**

**dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Commissioners and Staff,  
I support the proposal to allow up to ONE NR to draw one of the coveted "Hunt for Habitat" permits for Elk, Deer and Antelope. I think the price difference in the lottery fees is desirable to both Residents and NRs. One permit isn't going to hurt anything and will raise substantial monies for funding habitat. Many states do this and it's a great idea to allow another voluntary tax to provide another chance to draw these permits while enhancing funds for habitat. Please vote to approve.

Thank You

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**Center Of The Nation Sportsman's  
Club Center Of The Nation  
Sportsman's Club**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**cnscc.email@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Dear Game, Fish And Parks Commission,

We as the Center of the Nation Sportsman's Club of Belle Fourche, SD are very concerned about the proposal for bighorn sheep it was not specific where the sheep tags would be available. We are against the selling of one of South Dakota's most sought after tags being sold to the extreme rich our wildlife means more than that to us. But, if there has to be an auction tag it CAN TO NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE BADLANDS UNIT. Those sheep licenses in the badlands unit HAVE to be available only to South Dakota residents and never available to the mega rich who have already shot many many sheep. There are plenty of other places available across North America for the rich to buy a sheep tag and hunt a world class sheep. This is South Dakota's only place and opportunity to hunt world class sheep and it needs to stay only available to South Dakota's.

Again we the Center of the Nation's Sportsman's club are against an auction tag being available to anyone but South Dakota's in the Badlands unit.

Rick Walton  
President

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## Nest Predator Bounty

**Jon Sorensen**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**sorensen5000@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

" Participants may submit up to \$590 worth of tails per household."

You can keep your Bounty Program!!! And your cheap Live traps! Ill spend my money in another state from now on to trap! You make a program and then come up with all the rules after people have spent hundred on equipment and traps for this program and no you limit them to were they cant even re-coop the cost. Badly planned and badly organized as 99% of every program done in South Dakota for wildlife! Lost all my approval and Support of anything for GFP from here out!

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**May Wichers**

**Hot Springs SD**

**maywichers@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Our wildlife, especially predators have enough problems surviving without this additional stress. In the past this has caused extinctions! The red fox has only 50 left in East! According to the Audubon Society! I want my foxes hear where I live in the black hills. I want all of the small predators alive. No. No to getting our children involved too as killers.

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**Darci Willemsen**

**Hartford SD**

**darciwadams@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Please do not implement this nest predator bounty. Trapping is cruel & inhumane. It is a part of our history, not something we should perpetuate in any form.

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**Darci Willemsen**

**Hartford SD**

**darciwadams@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Please do not implement this nest predator bounty. Trapping is cruel & inhumane. It is a part of our history, not something we should perpetuate in any form.

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**Cory Ferguson**

**Rapid City SD**

**cory@blackhillsstockshow.com**

**Comment:**

- Wildlife management professionals across the U.S. have long acknowledged the ineffectiveness of bounties and predator control. This just seems like it is a 'snap' judgement without really diving into what the true problems are with declining pheasant populations.
- The "Nest Predator Bounty Program" has no science-based wildlife management objective and is encouraging citizens to kill these native wildlife species for the sole purpose of obtaining a cash reward. This is a slap in the face to South Dakota's hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase, and respect for wildlife and their environment.
- To date no sound, science-based evidence has been presented to suggest that the species targeted by this "Nest Predator Bounty Program"—raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers or red foxes—are adversely impacting pheasant populations.
- There is no scientific justification for the random removal of the targeted species, who each play their own unique and important role in South Dakota's ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a tremendous benefit to any area they inhabit, helping to control unwanted, harmful garden pests. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles, and—in large numbers—disease-carrying ticks.
- Trapping is not the answer to wildlife conflict management. Trapping does nothing to resolve the underlying problem in wildlife conflicts, and does not effectively control wildlife populations. Live trapping is only ever justified in those rare cases where it demonstrably benefits animals or provides necessary benefits to ecological systems.
- The slaughter of these native species is a wrongheaded approach that ultimately will not help pheasants and other game birds, whose numbers are affected by weather and the availability of suitable habitat. Ignoring that by offering free traps to kill them, and a gruesome \$10-per-tail bounty, is an embarrassment to South Dakota and an affront to modern, science-based wildlife management principles.
- If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, it must focus on improving their habitat, not randomly killing other species that play an equally important role in that habitat. Habitat establishment and improvement is the only long-term solution that should be considered.

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**Kathy Holm**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Kholm50@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

This is wrong. To set a bounty on animals, is appalling. We need to go forward in history, not backwards. I have a hard time comprehending this is even being considered.

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**Dana Rogers**

**Hill City SD**

**dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Commissioners and Staff,

While I am in favor of encouraging more people to trap predators of all types or harvest them effectively as any game species, I am concerned about where this "bounty" program funding will come from.

Unless something has been devised that I'm not aware of, the funds will mostly come from the GF&Ps wildlife coffers. Thus, some other projects will suffer and lose funding.

As this is billed as part of the 2nd Century habitat initiative primarily for pheasants, why not encourage funding sources from those commercial interests that actually benefit financially from pheasant hunting. Hunters are always carrying the water where wildlife is concerned.

Given the strong economic impacts and loud voices from commercial interests and chambers of commerce types, ask them to help foot the bill for a change. I realize that isn't in your purview. So I have to voice my support for predator harvest, specifically during the spring nesting and fawning season. But on the funding side I am opposed in that I feel the funds could be far better utilized elsewhere.

Thank You

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**Patricia Cressy**

**Pierre SD**

**cressypatricia174@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

Bounty Policy oppose

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**Kerma Cox**

**Custer SD**

**kermarae@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

This is wrong on every level. Trying to assume you are smarter than Mother Nature. And it's all in the name of the almighty dollar. Have you people absolutely no respect for animals? Do you think they have no feelings/pain? This is cruel and inhumane. Whoever supports this should be ashamed of themselves. Our governor has a lot on her agenda I do not support, but this idea is probably the lowest of the low.

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**Trista Klebsch**  
**Redfield SD**  
**Tristarhene@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Tara Brady**  
**Sioux Falls SD**  
**Tarav13@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

This is an unnecessary cruelty to these animals. We should be a state that leads by example of human treatment of animals.

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**Peggy Ellingson**  
**Sioux Falls SD**  
**peg4tzus@msn.com**

**Comment:**

This proposal is an encroachment of wildlife in this State. Trapping, ineffective hunting, poisoning is only harming animals not intended - even animals eating carcasses of animals killed is hurting the eco-system. Say NO!

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**Andrea Helwig**  
**Watertown SD**  
**annieleebens@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I am against putting a bounty on SD wildlife!

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**Beth Millard**  
**Hot Springs SD**  
**Sunydaze@live.com**

**Comment:**

Please don't make us regret voting you in...  
There is another solution that would protect pheasant egg predators that are doing what they do naturally.. and keep the hunters happy at the same time!!!

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**Katherine Brown**

**Black Hawk SD**

**underthemidnightblue@hotmail.com**  
**m**

**Comment:**

The only reason we put a bounty on natural predators is to make more deer and grouse and pheasant available for hunters to shoot. Why not bring some other sources of income to state?

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**Louise Mcgannon**

**Mitchell SD**

**l.mcgannon@ymail.com**

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program.

I have listened to people talk about how we need to kill migratory geese because they have destroyed the tundra. I witnessed last weekend these geese being hunted and killed. It is man that has disrupted the ecosystem, not geese, not coyotes. Man & man alone.

It is time to stand up for wildlife and let them run nature.

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**Todd Stahl**

**Canton SD**

**Comment:**

There aren't many foxes in this area, but I would guess that opossum and raccoon outnumber pheasants in this part of the state. I am a hunter, and we do need to have some type of population control for these type of predators.

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**Theresa Giannavola**

**Aberdeen. SD**

**treeg1999@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

Wildlife management professionals across the U.S. have long acknowledged the ineffectiveness of bounties and predator control, including South Dakota's own Habitat Work Group in its 2014 report to Governor Daugaard: "Under a bounty system, predator control would not be targeted enough to be effective. Additionally, bounty systems in other states have been ineffective because the origin of the predators cannot be verified. Predators from other states could easily be imported for a bounty, which would be counterproductive."

The "Nest Predator Bounty Program" has no science-based wildlife management objective and is encouraging citizens to kill these native wildlife species for the sole purpose of obtaining a cash reward. This is a slap in the face to South Dakota's hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase, and respect for wildlife and their environment.

To date no sound, science-based evidence has been presented to suggest that the species targeted by this "Nest Predator Bounty Program"—raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers or red foxes—are adversely impacting pheasant populations.

There is no scientific justification for the random removal of the targeted species, who each play their own unique and important role in South Dakota's ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a tremendous benefit to any area they inhabit, helping to control unwanted, harmful garden pests. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles, and—in large numbers—disease-carrying ticks.

Trapping is cruel, barbaric and an ineffective method of wildlife conflict management. Trapped animals can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation, or exposure to the elements. Those who survive long enough for the trapper to return may be killed by drowning, chest compression, strangulation, shooting, or any other method. Trapping does nothing to resolve the underlying problem in wildlife conflicts, and does not effectively control wildlife populations; in fact, it can actually stimulate population increases of some animals as they compensate for reductions in their numbers from trapping. Live trapping is only ever justified in those rare cases where it demonstrably benefits animals or provides necessary benefits to ecological systems.

The slaughter of these native species is a wrongheaded approach that ultimately will not help pheasants and other game birds, whose numbers are affected by weather and the availability of suitable habitat. Ignoring that by offering free traps to kill them, and a gruesome \$10-per-tail bounty, is an embarrassment to South Dakota and an affront to modern, science-based wildlife management principles.

If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, it must focus on improving their habitat, not randomly killing other species that play an equally important role in that habitat. And the Capital Journal in Pierre agrees; in January, its editorial board opposed the proposed bounty program, adding that if the state wants to advance pheasant hunting opportunities, it must "...focus on habitat, primarily grasslands and wetlands, work with landowners to secure those habitat(s) through incentives, provide hunter access through a strong walk-in program and raise suitable funding to get it done."

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**Julie Ward**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Julieward@sio.midco.net**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Teresa Hicks**

**Rapid City SD**

**teresahicks75@outlook.com**

**Comment:**

This proposed bounty program is such a terrible idea. This will not help the pheasant population. Habitat needs to be improved for that and killing everything that moves will not help anything. And to offer a bounty of \$10 for killing wildlife is terrible. There should be no bounty on any creatures life. The Governor talks about getting more young people involved in the sport of hunting. Well this isn't hunting, this is killing for the sake of killing and that is all you are teaching the youth of today with this program. And the idea of traps anywhere makes my blood boil. They should be outlawed everywhere as they only bring pain and misery to any animal caught in it and SD does not regulate trappers near enough in the first place. Just wait until someone's kid steps in a trap placed on public land not to mention how many dogs will also suffer. South Dakota and our Governor need to wake up! This is not how things should be done.

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**Rodney Mendel**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Rodneymendel@outlook.com**

**Comment:**

support

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**Jan Holmes**

**Leaterville SD**

**Sdjh1221@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

Trapping is barbaric, cruel, and harms all kinds of animals. Cats and dogs get trapped as well. Animals left in traps for days have been known to gnaw their own feet off to escape the horrific and torturous traps. This has to stop.

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**Rebecca Goeden**

**Canistota SD**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Barbara St. Clair**

**Brookings SD**

**Comment:**

oppose



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**Stephanie Samavarchian**  
**Rapid City SD**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Linda Perkins**  
**Mitchell SD**  
**lperky7@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

please say NO to Noem's Nest Predator Bounty Program" its cruel, inhumane and unethical

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**Margaret Sohn**  
**Gainesville FL**  
**samargo@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Patricia Jenkins**  
**Brandon SD**  
**dpjenkins@alliancecom.net**

**Comment:**

Spend the money on Pheasant Farms to increase the Pheasant Population. Leave these poor animals alone. Nothing but traps for our dogs to get caught in.

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**Jamie Al-Haj**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**jamie@msisd.com**

**Comment:**

Pheasants have been on the decline since the 1960's. The introduction of contemporary farming practices, fertilizer and herbicide use, mowing roadside ditches, draining wetlands, death by auto and farm machinery accidents, hunting, and climate variations coincide with the timeline of this decline. These are the issues that need to be addressed in order for the once plentiful ring-necked pheasant to revive. There is no scientific data to support that by decimating native wildlife species, we would improve the pheasant population. The role that native wildlife species play in maintaining a healthy diversified ecosystem, far outweighs any benefit that could be had by their elimination. Opossums help in tick eradication, foxes decrease the rodent population, raccoons ingest insects and contribute to seed distribution, etc. As a state, I hope South Dakota will be able to recognize the greater long term impact and not be so short sighted, that in the years ahead we will say "How could we have been so irresponsible!"

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**Dean Parker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**dean.parker.77@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I am writing in opposition of the proposed "Nest Predator Bounty Program", along with providing free traps for the trapping of those species.

This program is not backed by science-based wildlife management principles. If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, it must focus on improving their habitat, not killing native species that play an important role in that habitat.

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**Sara Parker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**sara@sdfact.org**

**Comment:**

I am writing in opposition of the proposed "Nest Predator Bounty Program", along with providing free traps for the trapping of those species.

Not only is trapping an ineffective method of wildlife conflict management, but it is a cruel way for any animal to die – including dogs and other non-targeted animals that will get caught in these traps.

Wildlife management professionals across the U.S. have long acknowledged the ineffectiveness of bounties and predator control, including South Dakota's own Habitat Work Group in its 2014 report to Governor Daugaard.

To my knowledge, no science-based evidence has been presented to suggest that the species targeted by this "Nest Predator Bounty Program" (opossums, raccoons, skunks, badgers or red fox) are negatively impacting pheasant populations. Furthermore, each native species plays an important role in our ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a great benefit to any area they inhabit. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles and disease-carrying ticks.

This program is simply not backed by science-based wildlife management principles. If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, please focus on improving their habitat - not killing indigenous species that play an important role in that habitat.

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**Paula Pillatzki**

**Labolt SD**

**ppillatzki@sstel.net**

**Comment:**

I thought we were better than this.

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**Kim Tysdal**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**kmtysdal@rap.midco.net**

**Comment:**

I highly oppose trapping of any animal. Why are we placing more concern on pheasants, not a native South Dakota bird, over native wildlife. I would say we need to improve habitat, put more land back in CRP. Pheasant hunting has become nothing but a rich mans sport in this state.

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**Greg Nordstrom**  
**Sioux Falls SD**  
**Sdsnow181@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Predator control is a must along with habitat management. This would give people another opportunity to hunt and enjoy the great outdoors.

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**Shari Kosel**  
**Lead SD**  
**shari@sdfact.org**

**Comment:**

"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Mahatma Gandhi

All animals serve a purpose and are an important element to our ecosystem. Randomly trapping is cruel, barbaric and unnecessary.

It's time to "think outside the trap" and find humane ways to solve these issues.

It's time to try compassion instead of tradition.

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**Shari Kosel**

**Lead SD**

**info@sdfact.org**

**Comment:**

On behalf of the SD FACT (South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together) board of directors and advocates, we strongly oppose the reckless Nest Predator Bounty Program.

Every animal has its role to play in an ecosystem. Here's why these varmints are so important.

**Raccoon**

Raccoons are highly intelligent. Raccoons are scavengers and therefore are an important part of cleaning up carrion. They also dine on many other species we consider pests when numbers get out of control, including snakes, frogs, lizards and rats.

**Striped skunk**

First, skunks do an amazing job at helping to keep insect populations in check, insects like grasshoppers, beetles, crickets and wasps. Skunks are one of the best examples of how an animal we really want to avoid is actually one we want to keep around.

**Badger**

Scientists call the badger a sentinel species, one that provides clues about the health of its ecosystem. One of the more curious badger facts is that a large part of their diet is earthworms and are excellent hunters of earth-dwelling prey including rabbits, groundhogs, ground squirrels, mice and snakes.

**Opossum**

The reality is, opossums are incredibly useful, and typically misunderstood. Ticks, particularly the black-legged ticks like deer ticks that are responsible for the spread of Lyme disease, appear to be a top item on the opossum's menu. Just one opossum eats, on average, 5,000 ticks each year.

**Red fox**

These varmints have a helpful side for farmers and ranchers. Like their larger canid cousin the coyote, red foxes are wonderful at keeping rodent populations down. They hunt chipmunks, rats, mice, voles and all sorts of other small rodents that can become more of a pest to humans than the foxes themselves. They also eat carrion and like other supposed varmints on this list, are part of an important cleanup crew for their ecosystem.

Trapped animals can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation and exposure to the elements. Each year, traps in the United States injure and kill millions of "nontarget" animals. Because of this cruel and unnecessary practice and the importance of the animals involved, SD FACT strongly opposes the Nest Predator Bounty program and urges the commission to consider all aspects of the ecosystem.

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together

Shari Kosel, Chair

Sara Parker, Vice-Chair

Joe Kosel, board member/attorney

PO Box 847, Lead SD 57754

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**Joe Kosel**

**Lead SD**

**Joekosel@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

These programs are ineffectual, the money expended is desperately needed for other more necessary programs, land use is a better priority for this issue, it is harmful to the ecosystem and is unnecessarily cruel.

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**Ann Leah Naber**

**Meckling SD**

**annleanaber@outlook.com**

**Comment:**

If South Dakota's own study on habitat in 2014 already declared this bounty system ineffective, why are we readdressing this again?

We have only lost more habitat (an actual issue with pheasant population) for all of our wildlife in the past 5 years.

Will there be money for wildlife rehabilitating to care for the orphan babies? Or will entire wildlife families be allowed to be massacred?

Momma and babies wiped out for a few dollars? Really? How will this possibly be good for tourism? This is the people we want to be?

On a side note but still relevant, I have raised chickens for 9 years. Domesticated dogs have far and away been the top cause of premature chicken death. Could domesticated dogs at large have such an effect on pheasants trying to raise their families?

The wildlife targeted by this bounty program are not trash animals. They serve a valuable purpose in our ecosystem and deserve to be respected not exploited politically.

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## Nest Predator Bounty Program

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**Jan Humphrey**

**Hill City SD**

**plazykranch@hughes.net**

**Comment:**

I am completely OPPOSED to Kristie Noems decision to allow trapping in The Black Hills.

The wildlife is just one of the wonderful aspects of the region. If I find trapper in my area I will harass them to leave the area. We have already had our dog get in a leg trap which is totally unacceptable. And don't threaten me to follow the law when you are considering the killing of innocent animals that are indigenous to the area.

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**Tom Steffensen**

**Brookings SD**

**completeplumbingtom@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Okay, so I open an email at 2 today that said we could apply for the live trap program. There was no time restraint at that time so I just plan to do it later. I get home at 10 tonight to apply and look at emails and see that it's closed. I do not think this is right to all of the sudden change this to a limited access. I feel I have the right to the three free traps like others will be receiving.

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**Richard Jensen**

**Minneapolis MN**

**RJensen@fwhtlaw.com**

**Comment:**

I am writing concerning your misguided bounty program that you have recently implemented. When I first heard of it, I assumed that it was a joke. The program is particularly frustrating with respect to red fox. The population of that species is a fraction of what it used to be. If there were going to be a bounty, it should be on the biggest predator that is taking over eastern South Dakota – coyotes. Although I am not a wildlife specialist, it is my understanding that coyotes are forcing red fox out. Indeed, it has been several years since I have even seen a fox in South Dakota, and I have seen coyotes frequently. As someone who grew up hunting and trapping in South Dakota, still owns land in South Dakota, and enjoys returning to South Dakota to hunt pheasants and ducks, I am extremely frustrated with the bounty program. I thought I would convey my frustration to you. Thank you.

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**Dennis Brandenburg**

**Pierre SD**

**Comment:**

I think you need to insure that each individual that receives traps uses them and that the PETA members are not given traps to destroy them and prevent them from being used.  
I suggest each person that receives a trap must turn in a minimum number of tails or they must return the traps to the state.  
I also think the state should put their name on the trap so they are cannot be re-sold only re-gifted.

## Other

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**Dana Rogers**

**Hill City SD**

**dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

As the formal petitioner for the South Dakota Bowhunters, I wanted to thank you for allowing us to submit our petitions and provide testimony.

We received a lot of wonderful encouragement and feedback from across the state, some commissioners and from many in the audience that day. Based upon comments from a few commissioners, I certainly hope something will be done soon.

I also have to confess to being disappointed in the decision to keep our petitions in the UP/DOWN category while taking and allowing an outfitters group to submit a "proposal" to double WR special buck permits.

It's tough to find the words to explain to residents how statistical evidence of NR harvest data and pressure can be voted down while a commercial interest selling public trust wildlife to "clients" is allowed forward.

I realize much can change in the next few months, I remain hopeful that the commission and department will act in the interests of our resident citizens and sportsmen.

Thank You

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**Clay & Donell Pederson**

**Morristown SD**

**theshootist93@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

How come there isn't anything planned in the North Western part of SD again. The closest ones are around 200 miles away for most of us around here. What's interesting is in ND, uniy 3F2 has cases of CWD and has restrictions. This is primarily Sioux County, which is right along the SD border of Corson County, but no meetings schedule. Closest is Aberdeen or Pierre, 150 -200 miles away. Maybe it's because of the weather, maybe not. Also again I see these important meetings are again scheduled right in the heart of calving seasons for most landowners and probably can't be attended by most of us. Just some thoughts as I've seen these kind of meetings in the past being held, even have voiced my concerns of the lack of meetings in this part of the area and the times held are always in conflict of busy times for ag producers and landowners.

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**Ross Swedeen**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**reswedeen@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

The waves keep coming in. I bet you all feel like a boxer in the ring that cant get to their feet! To start with, I fully understand where this is truly coming from. However, that doesn't necessarily mean its right. I could go on and on with the reasons, but you know them all already. My main conflict with this whole process is the lack of consideration of the public's opinion. I find that extremely discouraging to be honest with you. This deal has horrible optics. I think the worst consequence of omitting public opinion on this topic just may be the potential of losing the trust and integrity, that I believe the SDGFP had gained with how the deer license allocation has been handled the last two years. All lost with one person's decision and 48 hours. Talk about opposite ends of the spectrum in regards to public opinion considered on the two different topics! This perfectly illustrates the pitfalls of how governmental bureaucracies can work sometimes. I will not be able to make it to the meeting. However, I will be listening anxiously. It's going to be a good one. Thank you all for dedication to such thankless positions. Thankless positions that I'm sure will be that much more thankless after the next couple of days. I truly wish you the best of luck with all your decisions tomorrow.

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**Darren Pekas**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**pekasdarren00@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I know I am eighteen years old and not part of the youth seasons anymore. But my question is why don't we try something new for the youth seasons for deer season? I love hunting, fishing, and I enjoy being outdoors with my my family, friends, dogs. But totally be honest with me? This is my opinion? They should have a two seasons for South Dakota Resident and Nonresident Youth Buck season for the whole month of November for ages 14-18. Like for example, for first year applicants- are guaranteed a statewide South Dakota Youth Any Deer license. Same time as West River, East River, and Black Hills hunting season but include a whole month of November. Then, for second-fourth year applicants are still guaranteed a any deer tag, But have to pick a one unit either the Black Hills units, West River units, East River Units like for example, if youth apply for a West River tag like 11B, South of Bennett County, excluding Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. That's where they chose to hunt for the youth deer season. Or if they pick the Black Hills fire protection units, and hunt all over the National Forest units. That's what they pick as a unit. or same thing with a East River tag. And they can have a apprentice deer tags for one any antlerless deer from ages 12-18, or has not had a tag for 10 years from 18 years or older. There should be a deadline in July for two seasons for residents and nonresidents youth buck seasons. but not on apprentice deer tag, they should stay the same season, unlimited licenses for residents and nonresidents, and no deadline. The Nonresident youth buck season, first year applicants, first year applicants are guaranteed for any deer license but have to pick there unit either Black Hills, West River, East River. Just like the second- fourth year applicants. And the ages should be 14-18. For the nonresident second- fourth year applicants, will result a drawing by lottery. I hope this helps for better hunting traditions and enjoy of South Dakota's outdoors. Thank you for your time and please reply or call me on my cell phone from (605) 290-5354 I wish they could do better but I care about wildlife and the outdoors.



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**Scott Longville**  
**Lake Preston SD**  
**scott@descoarc.com**

**Comment:**

I would like to see S.D. do away with the icehouse removal date. I think it an unneeded law since the ones that know the ice conditions are the ice fisherman. Making them remove their shacks by the calendar and not ice conditions makes us miss time on the ice. I can't run out to the lake for two hours after work if I have to go home to get the shack and set it up. We all know every year is different. This is why I would like to see you repeal this law and let the ones that know the ice conditions and own the shacks take care of themselves .

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**Heather Spaich**  
**Lehigh KS**  
**heathercletis22477@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

No! Just NO! Quit killing innocent animals! They have a right to live just as much as we do! Things like this make me ashamed to be human. Humans suck! Alot, if not most, are greedy, vain, heartless, uncaring creatures. Things like this. Proves it. Don't be human

## Special Buck Licenses

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**Robert Eddy**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**REDDY@RUSHMORE.COM**

**Comment:**

Please oppose the proposal to increase the Special Buck licence numbers. This will substantially increase the number of non-resident hunters and decrease the limited amount of land available to resident hunters.

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**Dana Rogers**

**Hill City SD**

**dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Esteemed Commissioners and GFP Staff,

I am vehemently opposed to the proposal to increase (double) the number of NR and Resident special buck permits WR. This proposal was openly submitted by an outfitters group to sell the public trust wildlife to "clients". I'm not opposed to a landowner doing as they see fit with their property but I am very much opposed to enabling the further commercialization of our citizens public trust wildlife resources. There are currently PLENTY of draw opportunities for NR hunters who wish to draw a permit and hire an outfitter. We have the current UNLIMITED NR archery permits; 500 NR special buck permits as well as the 8% allocation WR and in the Black Hills for NRs to apply for and draw. A further doubling of these Special Buck permits will only further solidify the monetary value of game animals and serve to keep resident hunters from accessing areas to help harvest these surplus animals where needed. Please vote NO and keep the numbers where they are currently for Special Buck.

Thank You for your time!

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**Branden West**

**Philip SD**

**tbwest@gwtc.net**

**Comment:**

support

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**Cody Weyer**

**Howes SD**

**cdhunts@gwtc.net**

**Comment:**

support